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Applicant: **Olin Corporation**
427 North Shamrock Street
East Alton Illinois 62024(US)

Inventor: **Smith, Warren F., Jr.**
73 Pine Orchard Road
Branford Connecticut 06405(US)
Inventor: **Shapiro, Eugene**
926 Ridge Road
Hamden Connecticut 06517(US)
Inventor: **Winter, Joseph**
88 Vista Terrace
New Haven Connecticut 06515(US)

Representative: **Lambert, Hugh Richmond et al**
D. YOUNG & CO. 10 Staple Inn
London, WC1V 7RD(GB)

Optical fiber cables having improved hermeticity.

The invention relates to a process and apparatus for fabricating optical fiber cables (11) having improved hermeticity. The optical fiber cables are formed by reducing the water content of the buffer material (12) surrounding each optical fiber (14), for example by heating in an oven (16), and thereafter encapsulating the dried optical fiber(s) in a metal or metal alloy tube (18). After fiber encapsulation, the tube may be sealed to prevent the ingress of moisture and/or water from the surrounding environment.

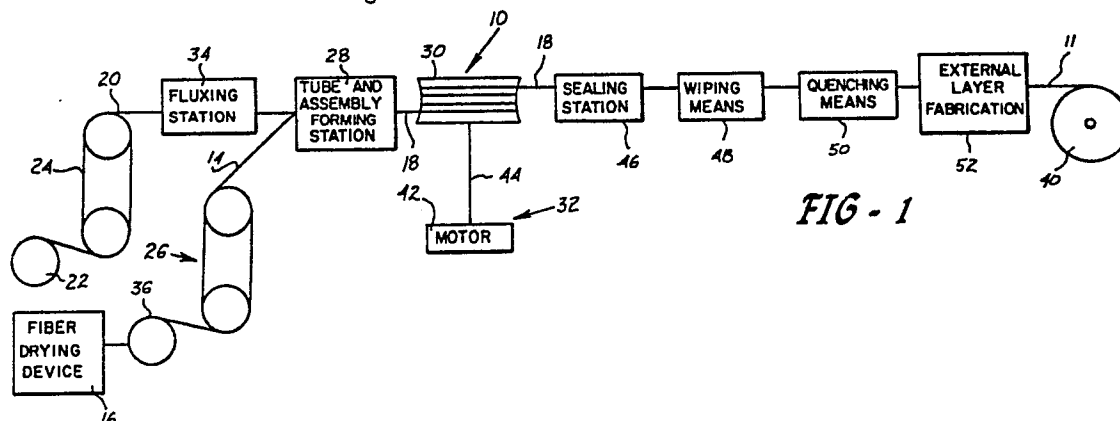


FIG - 1

EP 0 193 382 A3



| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|---------------------------|--|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A | US-A-4 437 729 (C.S. PARFREE et al.) * Abstract; figures 1-8 * --- | 1,8 | G 02 B 6/44 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| A | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, vol. 6, no. 100 (P-121)[978], 9th June 1982; & JP-A-57 34 504 (FURUKAWA DENKI KOGYO K.K.) 24-02-1982 ----- | 1,8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Place of search THE HAGUE | | Date of completion of the search 22-07-1988 | Examiner MALIC K. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="0"><tr><td>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</td><td>T : theory or principle underlying the invention</td></tr><tr><td>X : particularly relevant if taken alone</td><td>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date</td></tr><tr><td>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category</td><td>D : document cited in the application</td></tr><tr><td>A : technological background</td><td>L : document cited for other reasons</td></tr><tr><td>O : non-written disclosure</td><td>.....</td></tr><tr><td>P : intermediate document</td><td>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</td></tr></table> | | | | CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS | T : theory or principle underlying the invention | X : particularly relevant if taken alone | E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date | Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category | D : document cited in the application | A : technological background | L : document cited for other reasons | O : non-written disclosure | | P : intermediate document | & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document |
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